

Regarding need to release approved funds under Development of Wildlife Habitats Scheme to Odisha-Laid

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): One National Park, sixteen Sanctuaries, two Conservation Reserves, two Outside Protected Areas and two Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species are being operated under the Central Sector Schemes-Development of Wildlife Habitats in the State of Odisha. Government provides financial assistance for implementation of the scheme every year according to the specified Central and State ratio. The Annual Plan of Operation (APO) under the above Central Sector Scheme for Rs.37.33 crore was submitted to the Government by the State for according the Administrative approval for the year 2024-25. Though Union Government have accorded their Administrative approval for Rs.30.12 crore towards implementation of the said Central Sector Scheme during the year 2024-25 and accordingly Rs.11.29 crore have been released so far as on date 12.02.2025. Although the current financial year 2024-25 is approaching to its end very fast, no further funds are yet to be released during this current financial year. I would urge upon the Union Government to release immediately the approved funds under the CSS-Development of Wildlife Habitat in favour of Odisha.